DOCKET NO: 279096US3PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

:

KOJI TOKUDA, ET AL.

: ATTN: APPLICATION DIVISION

SERIAL NO: NEW U.S. PCT APPLICATION

(BASED ON PCT/JP04/03216)

FILED: HEREWITH

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FOR:

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR

PRODUCING REDUCED METAL

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to a first examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.